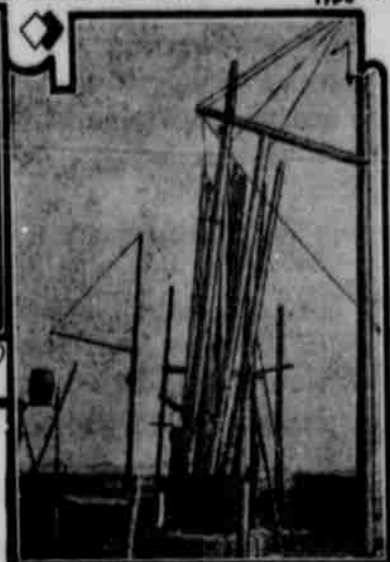


WOOD PRESERVATION

TREATMENT THAT GIVES TIMBERS LONGER LIFE.



COMPARISON BETWEEN TREATED AND UNTREATED PROPS



TREATING TELEPHONE POLES



TREATING PLANT FOR FENCE POSTS

"Timber thoroughly treated with proper preservatives will last almost indefinitely," says a government expert who is an authority on wood preservation. "Engineers have known for years that this is true," he continues, "but up to the present time, at least in America, complicated and expensive plants have been necessary for the work and wood preservation has often been too expensive an operation to allow treated timber to come into general use."

Methods in wood preservation have undergone a marked change in the last few years, however, and the work which a few years ago was limited to a few experiments carried on in scattered parts of the United States has grown with such rapidity that wood preservation has become a business which figures most prominently in the industrial life of this country.

Each year railroads are treating an increasing portion of their cross ties, miners their mine props, farmers their fence posts and the men of many other industries are bringing preservatives into play to close the pores and prepare the timber they use to resist the fungi which cause decay. The work points the way to one of the chief means of the conservation of the nation's forest resources, for as the length of the life of timber is increased the drain upon the forests is lessened, and more wood made available for use.

In nearly all localities in the Rocky mountain and Pacific states is found an abundant supply of certain kinds of timber which have only a slight commercial importance. Engelmann spruce, lodgepole and other kinds of pine, aspen, and cottonwood are only a partial list of the kinds of wood which are strong enough and abundant enough to win high value for construction purposes, were it not for one single defect which has prevented their general adoption. When exposed to the soil and weather they decay so rapidly that they have to be renewed too often to justify their use.

Dead timber of lodgepole pine and

other species also is found in large tracts, but is sharply discriminated against by all constructing engineers and contractors. As a matter of fact, the dead timber, provided it is sound, is just as good as green timber of the same species; and indeed, in some ways, is even more valuable. For it is well known that thoroughly seasoned timber is both stronger and more durable than the same timber when green. Timber which was killed by fire or insects, and which is still in a sound condition, differs from green timber chiefly in being thoroughly seasoned—that is to say, it is stronger, more durable and lighter. And so not only are the freight rates considerably reduced, but a better grade of timber is secured.

Even in a thoroughly seasoned condition, lodgepole pine, Engelmann spruce, and the other species mentioned above, are by no means durable woods when compared with Douglas fir, Oregon cedar, and the other kinds of wood which are used so extensively in construction work. And before they can successfully compete with such timbers, in spite of their lower price, they must be made to last longer under unfavorable conditions.

After several years' study, the United States forest service has proved that in many cases the complicated and expensive plants are not necessary for the proper treatment of many kinds of timber; and that many of the timbers which decay most rapidly in the natural state, are among the easiest and cheapest to treat. Many of the species mentioned above offer little resistance to the entrance of the preservative. The principle of the method is to immerse the thoroughly seasoned wood in a hot bath of the liquid, leave it in for a few hours, and then either plunge it into a cold bath of a preservative, or else run out the hot liquid from the treating tank, and fill it up again with liquid of a lower temperature. This requires only the simplest kind of machinery, and the cost of operation is so slight that

even cheap timbers like fence posts and shingles can be treated by the average farmer of small means.

Although the forest service, by extensive experiments in all portions of the country, considers that the practicability of the process has been conclusively proved, more or less difficulty has been encountered in inducing others to adopt the process on a commercial scale. In order to demonstrate beyond any doubt that the process is adapted to commercial treatments, the service has arranged to erect small treating plants—semi-commercial in size—on several of the national forests. Tests will be made on the local timbers, and careful record kept of the cost of the work. The treated timber will then be placed in permanent position, where its future durability can be compared with untreated timber of the same or other kinds.

Three such plants will be erected, and it is expected that they will be in successful operation during the summer. According to the present plans one plant will be erected at some locality on or near the Black Hills National forest, South Dakota, another on the Holy Cross National forest in Colorado; and the third on the Henrys Lake National forest, near St. Anthony, Idaho.

The investigations in wood preservation by the use of creosote, which is nothing more than the dead oil of coal tar and zinc chloride, are considered of such importance by the government that one branch of a bureau in the department of agriculture—the "Office of Wood Preservation" in the forest service—is given over entirely to the work of experiments in co-operation with railroad companies, mining corporations and individuals who desire to prolong the life of the timber which they use. Advice and practical assistance is furnished all who request it of the forester at Washington.

CHILD'S DIGNITY WAS HURT.

Dissatisfied with the Appearance of Her Medical Adviser.

Shortly after the removal to the suburbs of the household in which Claire, aged four, is the controlling spirit, she was taken ill. The nearest physician was called in. After her mother had explained what she thought was wrong, questions were directed to the little lady herself. In contrast to her usual display of volubility Claire became extremely non-committal.

"Does your head ache, little one?"

"No-o."

"Is the pain there?" asked the doctor softly, pointing to the patient's stomach.

"No," very emphatic.

"Are you cold?" and the professional hand sought the pulse.

No answer, simply a tolerance of conditions that gave him the right to touch her.

"Now please tell me just where you don't feel quite right," coaxed the doctor.

Dead silence.

"Precious, tell the doctor where you feel sick," coaxed the mother.

"I don't feel sick anywhere—not now."

The man of medicine gave directions, wrote prescriptions, and went his way.

"Why, Claire!" the mother reproached. "You've acted very badly. Mother never knew her little girl to be so rude. The doctor came to help you get strong—so you can run and play. Aren't you sorry to displease mother so? You always told Dr. Regan how you felt."

"Mother, I'm sorry, but not much. It's this way: Dr. Regan always comes in his carriage and his horse stands at the door. This doctor"—with a note of contempt—"just sneaks in with a little black bag—and all the other children will think we've got just a common doctor."—N. Y. Times.

Nature's Supremacy.

All argument will vanish before one touch of nature.—Coleman.

KIND THOUGHT OF THE BRIDE.

Possibly Turned Silly Custom Into Something Really Worth While.

"The most considerate girl I ever knew got married yesterday," said the man. "She showed her thoughtfulness in a most unusual way. The day before the wedding she called the attention of the rest of the family to a row of old shoes standing in a downstairs closet."

"I want you to throw these after the carriage," she said. "They are all mates. I collected them to throw away. I learned some time ago that certain poor souls who have hard work to get clothes of any description keep a lookout for big weddings. They hang around the house at going-away time and pick up the good luck shoes. Maybe they get a fit, and maybe they don't. Anyway, I've done all I could to accommodate them."

"Here are six pairs of shoes to be fired after me. If somebody doesn't get fitted in that collection, it isn't my fault."

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